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LB 561

diagnostic drops can continue to use those drops. There is 167 O.D.'s. certified to use the drops for diagnostic purposes today. It adds language in Section 2 so that no one can treat with eye drops until schools are evaluated and optometrists are certified to use the eye drops. It changes the reporting date for the department in Section 2 of the bill. The Department of Health has asked that the month be changed to October instead of September. We clarify Section 4 of the bill so the department has the authority to evaluate the curriculum rather than go to the schools and they will also be allowed to visit the schools if they wish. This was brought on by Dr. Bill Fuller, Postsecondary. The amendments define the five member evaluation team. The Director of the Department of Health or a designee from his staff and the Bureau of Examining Boards; a member of the Board of Examiners in Optometry or a representative; a member of the Board of Examiners in Medicine and Surgery or a representative; the Executive Director of the Nebraska Coordinating Commission and Postsecondary Education and a pharmacologist from Creighton University or the University of Nebraska. There will be an A bill that will have to accompany this for \$45,000 to provide for on site inspections or evaluations which the committee amendments have provided for. I would move for the adoption of the amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, did you wish to speak to the Clark amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I would. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I was going to speak on the committee amendments which I worked very hard on in trying to draft an attempt to compromise this issue. Senator Withem added some language, I worked on it, the committee itself worked on it. Then we did adopt the committee amendments. This bill was introduced not this year, but last year. It was held over the interim. We did consider it last session, over the interim and again this year, had a second hearing on the issue and then came up with an attempt to compromise as best we could with the different concerns expressed on this issue. Now for all of you who were not around back in 1979 in the "Great Eyedrops War" which occurred in that year, you